



Ursula Buchan  
Photographs by **Andrew Lawson**

THE  
ENGLISH  
GARDEN





**ABOVE** In small city gardens, more or less anything goes. Here is a classical take on a garden with an obelisk and water chute, as well as plenty of 'greens'. John Evelyn would surely have approved. Plants include *Yucca recurvifolia* and *Trochodendron aralioides* beside the pool, and *Pittosporum tobira* and pleached limes at the lower level. This is designed by James Aldridge and is a decided contrast to his roof garden shown on page 368.

**RIGHT** The designer Anthony Noel is known for his strongly ornamented and formal city gardens, and his delight in painting pots and other containers. In a typical small, rectangular London garden he has placed four large classical urns, achieving a strong impression by size and repetition. The planting is also strong and forthright: angel's trumpets (*Brugmansia*) and 'Stargazer' lilies, with variegated-leaved cordylines in the big pots.

their very nature, mainly are not open to the public, and the reader must be content to enjoy the pictures.<sup>3</sup>

In city gardens, there is a more adventurous use of modern materials, such as aluminium for decking and water features, Astroturf to escape from the tyranny of sparse, shaded grass, adventurous lighting, even canvas sails for shade. In roof gardens, particularly, the harsh conditions for plants have prompted much use of glass and concrete, with plant lovers seeking out spiky-leaved succulents or grey-leaved xerophytes.

It is in the cities that an imaginative eclecticism can be seen most clearly, perhaps